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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application of

SEP 13 2001

Applicant : McCown et al.
Serial No. : 09/057,313
Filed : April 8, 1998
Title : CONTAINER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND METHOD
Docket : 033449-002
Examiner : McAllister
Art Unit : 3652

Technology Center 2100

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This amendment is filed along with a Request for Continued Examination. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 16, 22, 24 and 25 such they read as follows:

DT
16. (Twice Amended) A method of loading containers on a marine vessel comprising the steps of:

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selecting a plurality of containers adapted to contain and protect freight in a marine environment, each container having a set of outer walls defining an inner volume; loading freight into said inner volume;

individually lifting and transporting each container by means of a vehicle over a ramp to a storage deck of a marine vessel, said ramp and storage deck having sufficient strength to support said vehicle when said vehicle is transporting a fully loaded one of said containers;